AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A central control system for controlling air conditioners, comprising:

a plurality of air conditioners installed indoors that perform air conditioning operations; and

a central controller that receives a control command to control the plurality of air conditioners, that monitors operating states of the controlled air conditioners, that automatically schedules control signals corresponding to the control command so that start times for ~~time intervals between~~ operation of each of the plurality of air conditioners can be adjusted to manage electric power consumption when simultaneously operating the plurality of air conditioners, and that outputs the scheduled control signals to the plurality of air conditioners;

wherein the central controller estimates a total amount of electric power consumed by the plurality of air conditioners; and

based upon whether the total amount of electric power exceeds a predetermined value, the central controller adjusts an operation schedule of each of the plurality of air conditioners enabling the start times of each of the plurality of air conditioners to differ according to a delay time,